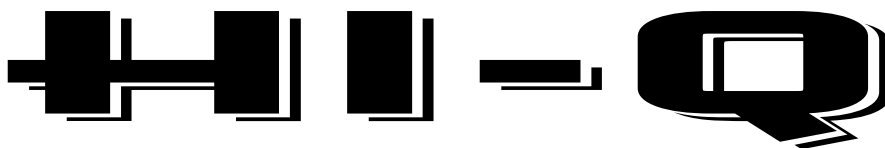




# *Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club*



*Thunder Bay, Ontario*

Volume 86

**January 2020**

Issue 01

## **Australian Bushfires Causing Major Telecommunication Outages, Hams Asked to Remain Alert**

01/03/2020 *vua ARRL*

[UPDATED 2020-01-05 @1704 UTC] Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) President Greg Kelly, VK2GPK, says the bushfires in Australia have caused or are expected to cause significant disruption of telecommunication services in the states of Victoria and New South Wales.

“The scope and range of these impacts is unknown at this stage but are predicted to cover all internet and phone (fixed and mobile) and other commercial radio services,” Kelley said. Radio amateurs are supporting relief operations and communication.

WICEN (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network) in New South Wales reports it has been active assisting in a number of multi-agency activities during the bushfire emergency, in its role as a support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) operations center in Bega. WICEN teams in NSW and in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) have sent a team to Bega, to help re-establish radio communication services, disrupted by fire activity.

WICEN and other VRA squads continue to support the Rural Fire Service (RFS) at various Fire Control Centers and the Bushfire Information Line. Other WICEN members remain active with the RFS and the State Emergency Service.

Kelley has asked radio amateurs in International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 to monitor the emergency communications frequencies, per the IARU Region 3 band plan, whenever possible, as well as repeaters. “Amateurs seeking to establish emergency communication should use these EMCOMM frequen-

cies in the first instance, or repeaters if available,” he said in a statement posted on the IARU Region 3 website.

## **Radio Amateurs of Canada Announces a New Section**

01/02/2020 *vua ARRL*

The number of Sections needed for a clean sweep in the ARRL November Sweepstakes (SS) will rise to 84 in 2020, with the addition of a new Prince Edward Island (PE) Section. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced this week that the new Section will become effective on April 1.

RAC said its Prince Edward Island members have been working for some time to create a separate Section for RAC ARES activities there. The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will continue to be in the Maritimes (MAR) Section. In addition to Field Day and Sweepstakes, the new Section in Canada will affect the ARRL 160-Meter Contest but not the ARRL 10-Meter Contest, which uses states/provinces for US and Canadian multipliers.

The change will mean that logging software developers will have to update their software to include the PE Section as a valid exchange element for any affected operating events.

RAC also announced an adjustment in two of its Ontario Sections. Effective April 1, radio amateurs in the City of Hamilton and in the Regional Municipality of Niagara will shift to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Section from the Ontario South (ONS) Section.

## ***A New Ham***

We welcome Randy McAllister VE3WBW who became licenced last month. Randy is currently active on VHF and will be on HF as soon as he gets some antenna issues solved.

**LARC SENATE**

Robert Hansen VE3RVA  
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**LARC EXECUTIVE**

**President:** Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**VP:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA

**Treasurer:** Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Secretary:** Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Board Member:** Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**Board Member:** Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

**Board Member:** Mike Skillen VE3EDX

**Board Member:** John Plumridge  
 VE3FMT

**ABOUT US**

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. . Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [hqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hqnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Amethyst District ARES**

**Providing emergency communications for Northwestern Ontario**

**Emergency Coordinators**

Atikokan: Warren Paulson, VE3FYN (ARES DEC, Amethyst District)

Sioux Narrows: Woody Linton, VE3JJA

Fort Frances: Rod Davis, VE3RYD (ARES EC, Fort Frances & area)

Kenora: Chris Bigelow, VA3ECO (ARES EC, Kenora & area)

Dryden: Bob Ernewein, VE3YDN

Thunder Bay: Brad Harris, VE3MXJ (ARES EC, Thunder Bay & area)

**Nets and Exercises**

We conduct an open weekly HF net on 80 and 40 metres. The purpose of this net is to monitor regional propagation conditions, share information, and practice net procedures.

Time: Wednesdays at 21:30 UTC (4:30 pm EST, 3:30 pm CST)

Frequency: Primary 3.675 MHz LSB, Secondary 7.135 MHz LSB

<http://www.ve3rib.ca/nwoares>

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

**ARES Amethyst District****Emergency Coordinator**

Warren Paulson, VE3FYN

**CANWARN**

VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3RRP Karl

**Public Service Events**

VA3TBA Chris Chadwick

**Accredited Examiners**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

[flesnick@tbaytel.net](mailto:flesnick@tbaytel.net)

VE3VAI Lori Bedford (807) 630-7688 [ve3vai@tbaytel.net](mailto:ve3vai@tbaytel.net)

**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

VE3YQT (Mount Baldy) 147.060 (-600)

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

VE3BGA (Loch Lomond) 147.390, PL Tone 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz) **pl 100**

144.390 APRS

## **Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

***Date: December 12, 2019***

**President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.**

**Guest Speaker:** Randy McAllister VE3WBW- MMANA  
Antenna Modelling Software

**Social Break:**

**Treasurer's Report: by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP**

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by

Bob Hansen VE3RVA. Passed Unanimously.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Ed Baumann VE3SNW. Passed.

**Old Business:**

**Public Service Chris Chadwick VA3TBA public events coordinator**

**Past Events:**

none

**Upcoming Events**

Grand Marais Mail Run in early January

John Bear Grease late January

Sleeping Giant Loppet March 2020

**10 Mile Road Race Coordinator:**

John Sacek VA3JMS has volunteered

**CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS**

No news.

**ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC**

Weekly ARES HF nets on Wednesdays still ongoing.

Monthly EOC net still ongoing. Firehall station being activated monthly.

Equipment has arrived for ARES Station VA3ETB

Warren VE3FYN in Atikokan now has a RMS server running.

**Repeater News**

**Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,**

**Terry Stewardson VA3LU**

UHF xtals have been ordered for the Loch Lomond repeater.

**Club Trailer: Bob Hansen VE3RVA**

Winterized and parked.

**LARC Revitalization: 20/20 (Randy Gottfred, VA3OJ)**

A March break activity will be researched by Randy McAllister and Randy Gottfred.

**Alexander Henry**

No news

**Meeting Venue**

St Martin's School is now firm until summer break. Parking off Brown st. Enter via main doors, turn left and go past office to cafeteria.

**New Business**

**Donation to RAC Scholarship in memory of Bill Unger VE3XT**

Motion by Randy Gottfred VA3OJ to donate \$150.00 to RAC Scholarship fund. 2nd Ed Baumann VE3SNW. Passed. Also, we are accepting personal donations to the fund at the January meeting to submit to the fund.

**RAC Club Affiliation**

Karl Hamilton will apply this month.

**Name tags Karl Hamilton VE3RRP:**

Name tags will be available at the next meeting for members to utilize.

**April Dinner Meeting**

Chicago Joe's is reserved for a venue.

**50/50 Draw:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA

**Adjournment** moved by: Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**Next Executive Meeting: January 2, 2019, 7 PM, 55+**

**Next LARC Meeting: January 9, 2020, 7 PM, St. Martin's**



# Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

## December 2019 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance December 1, 2019 **\$3,087.50**

### Income

Dec 23	Membership Dues	\$35.00
	50-50 Draw	\$8.10

Total Income **\$43.10**

### Expenses

Total Expenses **\$0.00**

Closing Balance December 31, 2019 **\$3,130.60**

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	1228.27
<u>Income</u>		
Interest		\$0.05
Total		<b>\$1,228.32</b>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Total Expenses:		<b>\$0.00</b>
	Balance in Trailer Account	<b>\$1,228.32</b>

### Term Account

Opening Balance December 01, 2019	\$2,068.64
Interest	\$0.43

Closing Balance December 31, 2019 **\$2,069.07**

**Karl Hamilton VE3RRP**  
Treasurer



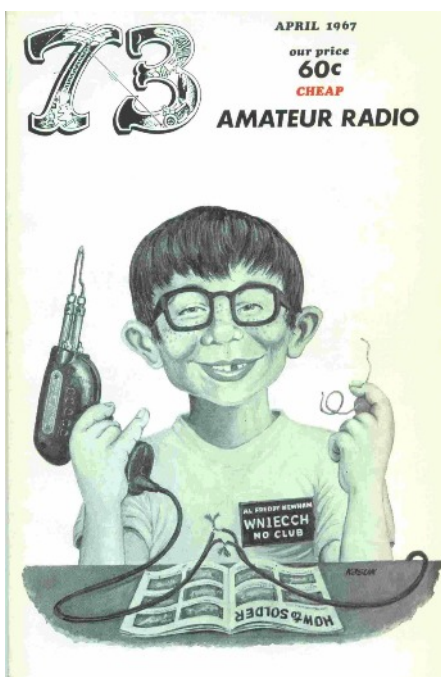


Some Jeep models have a footrest that looks like this.  
Can you figure it out?

## Reverse-polarity sunspots appear on the sun

via spaceweather.com

A new solar cycle is coming. Dec 25, two sunspots emerged on the solar disk. Their reversed magnetic polarity marks them as members of new Solar Cycle 25. This quickening of new-cycle solar activity suggests that the sun is not entering a new Maunder Minimum despite the recent scarcity of sunspots.



## New 70-Centimeter Tropo Contact Record Claimed

12/31/2019 via ARRL

[UPDATED 01-02-20 @ 1445 UTC] On January 1, 2020, Callum MacPherson, GM0EWX, on the Isle of Skye worked work D41CV on FT8 extending the IARU Region 1 2-meter tropo record to 4,776 kilometers (2,961 miles)

Tropospheric propagation is being credited with enabling a 70-centimeter contact between the Cape Verde islands and Scotland that may be a new world record. Exceptional tropo conditions over the eastern part of the North Atlantic this past weekend allowed many stations in the UK and Ireland to make contacts with the Monteverde Contest Team Club, D41CV, on the Cape Verde islands on 2 meters, but the conditions extended to 70 centimeters.

At 1109 UTC on Saturday, December 28, Ian White, GM3SEK, in southwestern Scotland completed an FT8 contact with D41CV on 432 MHz, staking a claim on the IARU Region 1 tropo record at 4,562 kilometers (2,828 miles), which may also be a new world record. A couple of hours earlier, Mark Turner, EI3KD, worked D41CV on FT8 over a distance of 4,163 kilometers (2,581 miles).

## South Orkney Islands DXpedition will Use VP8PJ

01/03/2020 via ARRL

The Perseverance DX Group's DXpedition to South Orkney, set for February 20 until March 5, will use the call sign VP8PJ. The group initially announced that it would use VP8/VP8DXU.

"Alan Armstrong, VK6CQ, a recent addition to the team, holds the call sign VP8PJ that was issued to him for operation from the British Antarctic Territory," the DXpedition has announced. "After submission of a copy of Alan's license, ARRL has issued us a new LoTW certificate for the use of this call from South Orkney for the duration of our expedition."





# January 2020

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

1  
New Year's Day

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9 LARC Meets 10  
at St. Martins  
School  
1900 hrs.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Looking for contest  
information?  
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>